

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on September 9, 2005. Claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21-24 are pending in the Application and Claims 1-3, 11, and 12 stand rejected. Claims 6-10, 13-17, and 19 were allowed and Claims 4, 5, 18, and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 were identified as allowable if rewritten to overcome the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1, 3, and 11 are amended, Claims 5 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 21-24 are added by the present Amendment.

The indication of allowed claims and allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In response, Claim 3 is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 5, which is now canceled. Claims 1 and 11 are amended to overcome the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In addition, new Claims 21-24 are submitted to recite the alternative embodiments originally recited in Claims 1, 2, 11, and 12. That is, Claims 1 and 11 now recite the features of two blade inserts of the same wheel having recesses with different configurations and new Claims 21 and 23 correspond to blade inserts belonging to two different wheels with different configurations. New Claims 22 and 24 recite the subject matter of Claims 2 and 12. As such, no issues of new matter are believed to be raised by new Claims 21-24.

Summarizing the outstanding Final Office Action, the specification was objected to because of an informality; Claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Gee (U.S. Patent 3,952,391) in view of either Flanders (U.S. Patent 2,277,484) or Sasaki (Japanese Patent 59-5806).

As to the objections to the specification, Applicants note with appreciation the time taken by the Examiner to identify specific areas needing revisions. Applicants have herein submitted an amendment to the specification in order to correct the outstanding informality and respectfully request reconsideration of the same.

In response to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants submit that the amendments to Claims 1 and 11 have overcome the same and respectfully request its withdrawal. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Turning to the above-summarized obviousness rejections, in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the same are now moot. Thus, their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after a Final Rejection permits entry of amendments placing the claims in condition for allowance.¹ As the present amendment simply amends the claims to recite allowable subject matter in independent form and addresses the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, it places the application in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be liberally construed, and that the present amendment be entered.

¹ See, for example, MPEP §714.12.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21-24 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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